Government of Saskatchewan

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All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
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Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending March 13, 2015

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight ($/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Saskatchewan Feeder Steer and Feeder Heifer Prices ($/cwt)

Feeder Steers		**300-400**	**400-500**	**500-600**	**600-700**	**700-800**	**800-900**	**900+ lb.**
March 13/2015	Average	**$349.67**	**$341.10**	**$313.33**	**$284.20**	**$257.00**	**$238.92**	**$222.31**
March 13/2015	Range	340-354	321-354	303-327	274-300	250-272	230-246	218-229
week/week	Change	**N.A.**	**$7.31**	**$1.08**	**$3.20**	**$4.96**	**$5.88**	**$1.20**
March 6/2015	Average	**N.A.**	**$333.79**	**$312.25**	**$281.00**	**$252.04**	**$233.04**	**$221.11**
Feeder Heifers		**300-400**	**400-500**	**500-600**	**600-700**	**700-800**	**800+ lb.**	
March 13/2015	Average	**$325.13**	**$312.67**	**$287.33**	**$259.25**	**$239.80**	**$222.88**	
March 13/2015	Range	304-338	298-329	274-308	251-269	235-250	216-227	
week/week	Change	**$6.66**	**$3.16**	**$6.65**	**$6.54**	**$7.99**	**$9.88**	
March 6/2015	Average	**$318.47**	**$309.51**	**$280.68**	**$252.71**	**$231.81**	**$213.00**	

Source: CanFax

Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week. N.A. means not available due to lack of sufficicent data.

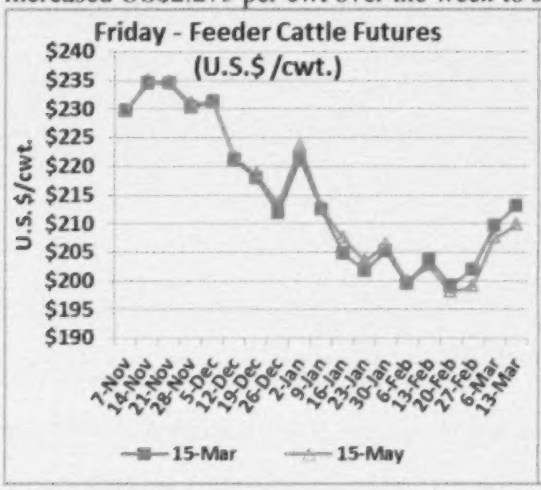
Canfax reported that a total of 13,482 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up from 9,837 head marketed the previous week. Saskatchewan feeder cattle prices were higher over the week helped by higher U.S. feeder cattle prices and a weaker Canadian dollar.

Saskatchewan feeder steer prices over the week were higher. Prices increased between $1.08 per cwt and $7.31 per cwt. Prices in the 400-500 lb. weight category had the biggest gain over the week increasing $7.31 per cwt. No categories had losses over the week. New all-time high record prices were established in the 400-700 lb. feeder steer weight categories.

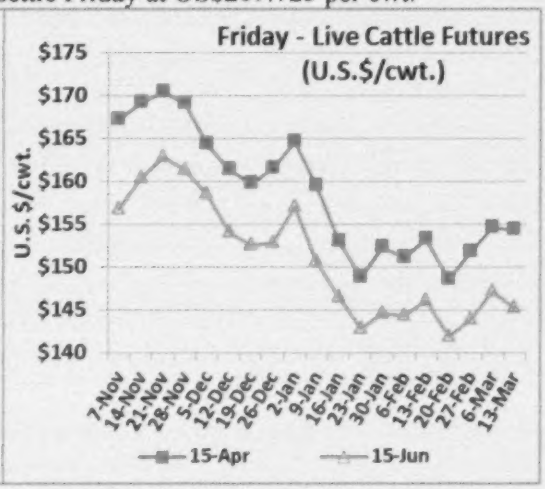
Feeder heifer prices were also higher over the week with no losses. Feeder heifer prices increased between $3.16 per cwt and $9.88 per cwt. The 800-900 lb. feeder heifer weight category had the biggest gain over the week increasing $9.88 per cwt. Feeder heifers in the higher weight categories had the biggest gains. New all-time high record prices were established in ALL the feeder heifer weight categories except the 300-400 lb. feeder heifer weight category.

The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the March 12, 2015, U.S. feeder cattle index at US$213.62 per cwt was calculated at -$16.21 per cwt (US$213.62/0.7819-$257.00), a basis widening of $6.38 per cwt from -$9.83 per cwt on March 5, 2015.

Feeder cattle futures prices were mostly higher over the week achieving gains, week-over-week. The nearby contracts increased between US$2 and US$3 per cwt over the week. The March contract increased $3.400 per cwt to settle Friday at US$213.175 per cwt, while the May contract increased US$2.275 per cwt over the week to settle Friday at US$209.725 per cwt.



Source: CME



Source: CME

Live cattle futures prices were mixed over the week with nearby contracts declining, week-over-week. The April 2015 contract declined US$0.375 per cwt over the week to settle Friday at US$154.275 per cwt, while the June contract declined US$1.825 per cwt to settle Friday at 145.275 per cwt.

Iowa cash corn prices edged lower over the week declining 4 cents per bushel to end Friday at US$3.60 per bushel. Daily U.S. corn futures prices were mixed over the week and down Friday to end the week lower, week-over-week. The March corn futures contract was down over 5 cents to settle Friday at US$3.74 per bushel, while the May 2015 corn contract declined over 5 cents to settle Friday at $3.80½ per bushel.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	March 13	March 6	Change over Week
Steers (Alberta)			
Live	n/a	190.64	n/a
Rail	n/a	313.75	n/a
Cows (Alberta)			
D1,2 Live	144.00	140.04	+3.96
D3 Live	128.13	119.00	+9.13
Rail	273-277	268-273	+4/5.00

Source: Canfax. (n/a = not available, n/c = no change)

Prices for live weight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were higher over the week. The price of D1,2 slaughter cows increased $3.96 per cwt to average $144.04 per cwt, a new all-time high record price for D1,2 slaughter cows. The price of D3 slaughter cows increased $9.13 per cwt to average $128.13 per cwt.

Cash fed cattle sales in Western Canada were too low and not sufficient to calculate average Alberta fed steer prices for the week. Alberta fed steer prices were reported to average $190.64 per cwt the previous week of March 6, 2015.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at US$161.26 per cwt, up slightly (US$0.19 per cwt) from US$161.07 per cwt from the previous week, and up US$11.31 from US$149.95 per cwt the same week a year ago. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US$257.17 per cwt, unchanged from US$257.17 per cwt the previous week, and up US$16.95 per cwt from US$240.22 per cwt the same week a year ago.

Average beef cutout values (Choice 600-900 lb.) for the week ending March 14 averaged US$246.59 per cwt, down US$2.32 per cwt from US$248.91 per cwt from the previous week, but up 2.4 per cent from US$240.72 per cwt the same week a year ago.

U.S. beef production for the week ending March 14, totaled 428.2 million lb., down 2.5 per cent from 439.1 million lb. the previous week, and down 5.9 per cent from 455.0 million lb. the same week a year ago. Cattle slaughter numbers were 524,000 head, down 2.4 per cent from 537,000 head the previous week, and down 8.7 per cent from 574,000 head the same week a year ago.

USDA World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE)

On March 10 the USDA released the March World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE). The March USDA WASDE report estimated that United States Red Meat and Poultry production for 2015 will be 95.069 billion lb., a slight decrease from the February estimates, but a 3.1 per cent increase from 2014 production. U.S. beef production estimates in March were revised 0.7 per cent lower from the February estimates and production for 2015 is estimated to be down 0.8 per cent from 2014. Pork production estimates for 2015 were slightly increased from the February estimates to 24.120 billion lb., and are estimated to be 5.6 per cent above the 2014 production numbers. United States meat production for 2015 is projected to increase for pork (+5.6%), turkeys (+5.5%), and broilers (+3.8%), but decrease for beef (-0.8%), from 2014 production.

Western Livestock Price Insurance Calf Program

The Western Livestock Price Insurance Calf Program coverage levels improved over the week from higher feeder cattle future prices and a lower Canadian dollar. Coverage levels over the week for November contracts ranged from a high of $268 per cwt ($1,608/600 lb. steer) to a low of $240 per cwt ($1,440/600 lb. steer). Premium costs for a 600 lb. steer ranged over the week from under $10 to a high of just over $46. The Western Livestock Price Insurance Program (WLPIP) is a tool that provides price coverage including the basis and exchange rate. The WLPIP offers producers a floor price while leaving the upside open in the cash market. With exchange rates and basis levels covered in the insurance program it is an easy and manageable tool that producers can use. http://www.wlpip.ca/

Friday Price Information

Product		This Week (March 13)	Week of: (March 6)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US$)		.7819	.7930
U.S. Cash Cattle			
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US$ per cwt)		213.62	207.66
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)		764	770
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US$ per cwt)		160.78	161.07
Feed Grains			
Barley	Lethbridge ($/tonne)	208.00	203.00
	($ per bu.)	4.53	4.42
Corn	Iowa State Average (CDN$/tonne)*	181.26	180.71
	(US$ per bu.) (current Wed. price)	3.60	3.64
	Omaha, NE (CDN$/tonne)*	192.84	190.63
	(US$ per bu.)	3.83	3.84
Futures			
	March Corn (US$ per bu.)	3.74	3.79¼
	May Corn (US$ per bu.)	3.80½	3.86
	April Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	154.275	154.650
	June Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	145.275	147.100
	March Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	213.125	209.725
	May Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	209.725	207.450

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News

* conversion to CDN$ is based on Friday's CDN$ closing rate

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